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BCStats

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Labour Force Statistics ◆ September 2010

(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Jobless rate edges up to 7.5% in September

British Columbia's unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points in September, rising to 7.5%. The increase in the jobless rate was a result of more people participating in the labour force (+0.2%).

BC's jobless rate remains below the national average (8.0%), but is the highest among the western provinces Manitoba (5.4%), Saskatchewan (5.5%), and Alberta (6.2%).

BC's jobless rate increases in September

BC Stats

Job gains in the goods-producing sector

In the goods-producing sector, employment increased in September (+1.6%). Job gains in construction (+5.8%) and manufacturing (+2.2%), the largest goods industries, were offset by losses in utilities (-20.1%), forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-7.8%), and agriculture (-2.7%).

Employment in the services-producing sector declined slightly in September (-0.4%), driven largely by jobs losses in educational services (-6.9%), information, culture and recreation (-4.9%), and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-3.5%). These losses were offset by gains in other service sector industries, namely transportation (+6.7%), public administration (+3.5%), and business, building and other support services (+2.9%).

There was virtually no change in the number of employees in the public sector in September (-0.1%) while the number of private sector employees increased (+1.4% or +20,300). In the past year, growth in the private sector (+3.7% or +51,400) has outpaced that in the public sector (+2.2% or +9,200). Since September 2009, the number of self-employed workers in BC has declined by 3.3% (-15,000 jobs).

Private sector growth outpaces public sector growth

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BC Youth

Youth in BC's labour market continue to face a high jobless rate. The unemployment rate for those aged 15-24 fell slightly to 14.4% in September. The unemployment rate for young men in BC is almost three times that of their older counterparts—18.6% compared to 6.6% for those 25 and over.

Aboriginal Population

Among the Aboriginal population (off-reserve, age 25+), the unemployment rate was 8.9% (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) in September, 1.2 percentage points lower than the same time last year. The Aboriginal population continues to face higher unemployment rates (8.9%) than the non-Aboriginal population (6.4%). However, the gap in the unemployment rate between the Aboriginal population and the non-Aboriginal population has shrunk since this time last year—2.5 percentage points in September 2010 compared to 3.6 percentage points in September 2009.

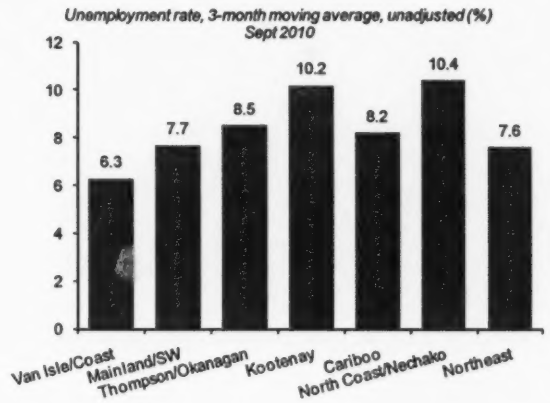
Immigrant Population

In September, the jobless rate among the province's landed immigrant population (aged 25-54) was 8.6% (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*), 2.7 percentage points higher than the rate of their Canadian-born counterparts.

The Regions

At the regional level, unemployment rates (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) ranged from 6.3% (Vancouver Island/Coast) to 10.4% (North Coast and Nechako). Compared to the same time last year, jobless rates have improved the most in Cariboo (-4.20 ppts; 8.2%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (-0.8 ppts, 6.3%). The jobless rate has risen in the Kootenay region from 8.8% in September 2009 to 10.2% in September 2010.

Vancouver Island/Coast has the lowest jobless rates in BC



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The Nation

Canada's unemployment rate crept down 0.1 percentage points to 8.0% in September. Most of the nation's job losses occurred in Ontario, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, while Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Nova Scotia posted gains.

Selected Statistics	Sep-10	Aug-10	Sep-09
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	7.3	7.3
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	8.1	8.3
BC Employment ('000)	2,320	2,321	2,275
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	66.1	66.0	65.9
Sep % change in employment relative to:	-	0.0	2.0
Sep % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.2	2.2